



Sponsored By:

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL



**House Angels**  
CALL TODAY FOR **FREE** ESTIMATE! **1.201.456.8901**

→ [SEARCH](#)

→ [FIND A BUSINESS](#)

## NEWS

**The Star-Ledger**

Click here  
to subscribe!

» [More From The Star-Ledger](#)

### Top News

# 'After you Frank,' 'Please, you go first Jon'

Sunday, July 27, 2003

BY J. SCOTT ORR  
STAR-LEDGER WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON -- When New Jersey's two Democratic senators get together these days, you can almost feel the love.

In deference to his colleague, Sen. Jon Corzine never misses an opportunity to highlight Sen. Frank Lautenberg's 18 years of experience in the Senate. And Lautenberg, gracious in his second career in the Senate, never fails to note that Corzine is nonetheless the state's senior senator.

The two share credit for accomplishments, join in meeting constituents at monthly Capitol Hill breakfasts, share the podium at press conferences here and in the state and show up together for meetings with the rest of the state's congressional delegation.

What the heck's going on here? Two Democratic senators from New Jersey getting along? Working together like tag-team wrestlers? Actually seeming to like each other?

Coming as it does after a years-long blood feud between Lautenberg and former Democratic Sen. Robert Torricelli, this Corzine-Lautenberg era of mutual admiration and respect is downright shocking.

"I think it's genuine," said Rep. William Pascrell (D-8th Dist.), who noted that delegation meetings are far more efficient when the two senators can agree to be in the same room at the same time.

"They work very well together, neither one is trying to get over on the other. ... Frank has this experience and knowledge, he's paid his dues, and Corzine respects that," he said.

So what makes these guys simpatico? Well, for one thing, both are self-made

#### INSIDE

##### News

- » [Español](#)
- » [NewsFlash](#)
- » [Newspapers](#)
- » [News Obituaries](#)
- » [Paid Death Notices](#)
- » [Photos](#)
- » [Weather Center](#)
- » [WebFlash](#)

▶ [SEND THIS PAGE](#)

▶ [PRINT THIS PAGE](#)

#### SPEAK UP!

- » [National Politics](#)
- » [Just Jersey](#)
- » [More Forums](#)
- » [Log On to ChatXtra!](#)

- » [Win 4 Tickets to see a Medieval Times Show!](#)
- » [Shopping: Stores & Yellow Pages](#)
- » [Fun Guide: Things to do & see in NJ](#)

#### Fleet HomeLink<sup>SM</sup>



[Log In Now >](#)

Fleet HomeLink Online Banking.

**FleetOne Checking.**  
**Better: rates, tools, access!**  
[Get smarter checking >](#)

**Click Here**

#### STAR-LEDGER

- » [Get Home Delivery](#)
- » [Carriers Wanted](#)
- » [Newspapers in Education](#)
- » [Donate to The Fresh Air Fund](#)
- » [Click, Shop and Save \\$\\$ with The Star-Ledger's Money Book!](#)
- » [Place Classifieds](#)
- » [The Star-Ledger Active Adult Communities](#)
- » [The Star-Ledger Commercial/Industrial Real Estate](#)
- » [Star Ledger Ads](#)
- » [Star Ledger Auto Exchange](#)
- » [Contact Us](#)

» [Advertise With Us](#)

#### VISIT OUR ADVERTISERS

- >> [Jenkinson's Events Schedule](#)
- >> [Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ - Making Healthcare Work](#)
- >> [Click for Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital News & Events](#)
- >> [Visit the Camden Waterfront](#)

'After you Frank,' 'Please, you go first Jon'

millionaires who entered politics on their own dimes.

Because it is virtually certain that Lautenberg, 79, will not seek reelection in 2008, the two are not competing for media coverage or looking for contributions from the same set of Democratic donors.

Some political observers describe the rosy relationship as a sort of Pax Corzine, a period of peace brought about by the senior senator's willingness to curb his own ego for the good of the team.

"It's a wonderful show. Corzine has this easygoing personality and he's genuinely a nice guy," said Jim McQueeny, a longtime Lautenberg adviser and head of the consulting firm Winning Strategies.

"Frank's the kind of guy when he puts up his dukes and the other guy puts up his dukes, he gets energized. When the other guy doesn't, he doesn't know what to do. I think he sometimes scratches his head and wonders how Corzine can be such a nice guy and be so successful in business and politics," McQueeny said.

## THE VETERAN SENATOR

First elected in 1982, Lautenberg spent 14 years as the state's junior senator, often overlooked in the shadow of his better-known colleague, Democratic Sen. Bill Bradley.

Though Lautenberg's relationship with Bradley was not openly hostile, neither was it warm. The two rarely worked together on issues and when Bradley ran for president in 2000, Lautenberg was an early supporter of Al Gore.

When Bradley retired and Torricelli was elected to take his place, the bad blood began boiling almost immediately.

"There was just a fundamental personality clash between Lautenberg and Torricelli," said Ross Baker, an author and political science professor at Rutgers University.

"I think it's simply that Jon Corzine is a much easier partner for Lautenberg. He's more adaptable, more flexible, less of a showboat. He gives Lautenberg a little more elbow room," he said.

As testament to Corzine's ability to get along with colleagues, he was one of the few politicians to have a good relationship with Torricelli, better known for making and breaking political alliances than for building friendships.

In typical fashion, Corzine refuses to take all the credit for the sweetness of his relationship with Lautenberg. He did acknowledge, however, that he was known as a consensus seeker and team builder as he worked his way to the top of investment banking giant Goldman, Sachs & Co.

"Even if I didn't like someone, even if I didn't have a positive feeling about someone, I would work with them. ... It's foolish for people to be at each other all the time. Generally, when people reach out to each other and say let's work together you can get to a more cooperative nature," he said.

"I've had to deal with strong willed people for my entire career. You have your differences behind closed doors. You try not to surprise people ... If you don't have common goals and common effort you're often unable to reach objectives," he said.

## NEVER STRANGERS

The two men have known each other for years, crossing paths in Democratic circles when Lautenberg was a senator and Corzine a player in raising money for campaigns.

When Corzine ran for Senate, Lautenberg was a key supporter offering advice and counsel to his successor even after Corzine was in office. When Torricelli's ethical problems forced him to quit his race for reelection, Corzine was one of the key backers of Lautenberg's five-week sprint to election.

In fact, on the morning after Lautenberg agreed to replace Torricelli as the Democratic candidate last fall, Corzine was part of an inner circle of Democratic allies who huddled in Lautenberg's kitchen to plot campaign strategies.

"He was there from the beginning," Lautenberg said. "He wanted the seat to stay Democratic. We had known each other and we were both interested in similar agendas."

Lautenberg said his relationship with Corzine is better than the cordial but cool relationship he shared with Bradley and, obviously, a vast improvement on the public enmity he shared with Torricelli.

"The previous experience was a very sorry one for everybody. Jon Corzine and I work together, share information and exchange ideas. My colleague in the former days was never willing to exchange anything but nasty glances," Lautenberg said.

"This is definitely the preferred of the three. It's about as good as it gets," he said.

[» Send This Page](#) | [» Print This Page](#)

Copyright 2003 The Star-Ledger. Used by NJ.com with permission.

### MORE TOP NEWS

- [» U.S. seizes a bodyguard of Saddam](#)
- [» Bottled water drains military](#)
- [» Saudis, under fire on terrorism, fight back](#)

[More Stories](#) | [14-Day Archive](#) | [Complete Index](#)

[The Best Local Classifieds: Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Place An Ad](#)

### Special Home Delivery Offers!

[The Star-Ledger](#) | [The Times, Trenton](#) | [The Jersey Journal](#)  
[Gloucester Co. Times](#) | [The Express-Times](#)  
[Bridgeton News](#) | [Today's Sunbeam](#)



[About Us](#) | [Help/Feedback](#) | [Advertise With Us](#)

Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 2003 [NJ.com](#). All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#) | [News+Biz](#) | [Local](#) | [Sports](#) | [Forums+Chat](#) | [Cams+Radio](#) | [Living](#) | [Entertainment](#)

[CLASSIFIEDS](#)

'After you Frank,' 'Please, you go first Jon'

*Get The Best Local...*

[Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#)

[All Classifieds](#) | [Place An Ad](#)